

**Chandrawat
& Partners**

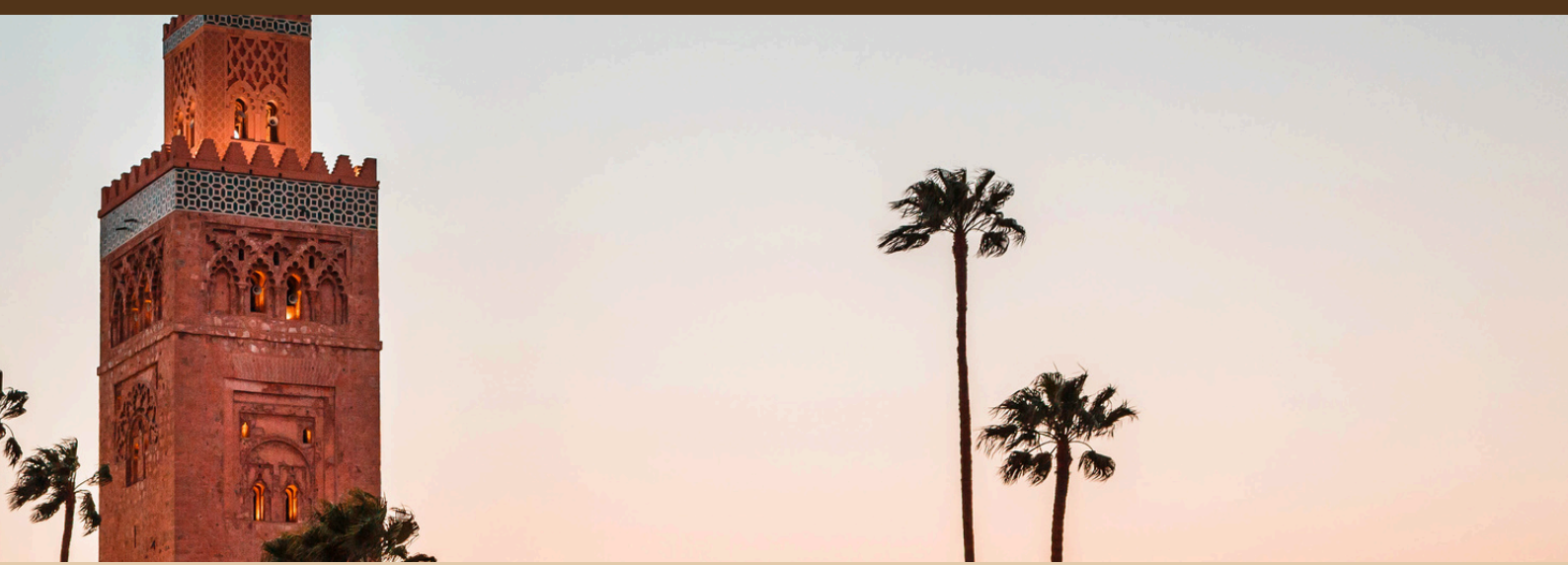
Immigration to Morocco



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System of immigration



Law No. 02-03 on Entry and Stay of Foreigners in Morocco which was enacted in 2004 provides the general legal framework for immigration in Morocco. It outlines the conditions for entry, residence, and stay of foreign nationals in the country. It also covers visa requirements, residence permits, work permits, and deportation procedures.

Law No. 03-03 on the Employment of Foreigners in Morocco regulates the employment of foreign workers in Morocco. It sets out the requirements and procedures for obtaining work permits, employer obligations, and the conditions for employment of foreign nationals in specific sectors.

Morocco requires most foreign nationals to obtain a visa before entering the country. The type of visa required depends on the purpose and duration of the visit. Common visa types include tourist visas, business visas, student visas, and work visas. For individuals planning to stay in Morocco for an extended period, such as for work or study, a residence permit is usually required. The requirements and application process for residence permits can vary based on the purpose of stay.

Decree No. 2-13-781 on the Issuance of Residence Permits provides detailed guidelines for the issuance of residence permits in Morocco. It outlines the requirements, application procedures, and duration of validity for various types of residence permits, including those for work, study, family reunification, and other purposes.

Purposes of immigration

Individuals can immigrate to Morocco for various purposes including employment, studies, or to conduct business, undertake entrepreneurship or for investment purposes. People generally immigrate to Morocco to pursue job opportunities. This includes highly skilled professionals, workers in specific industries, or individuals who have secured job offers from Moroccan employers. Obtaining a work permit and residence permit is usually required for employment-based immigration.



Some individuals may immigrate to Morocco to start a business, invest in existing enterprises, or participate in economic activities. This often involves meeting certain financial requirements, demonstrating a viable business plan, and obtaining the necessary permits and licenses.

Purposes of immigration



Individuals may immigrate to Morocco for employment opportunities. This can include skilled professionals who are recruited by Moroccan companies or individuals seeking to start their own business in the country.

Some individuals may immigrate to Morocco to start a business, invest in existing enterprises, or participate in economic activities. This often involves meeting certain financial requirements, demonstrating a viable business plan, and obtaining the necessary permits and licenses.

Many international students choose to immigrate to Morocco to pursue higher education. The country has several universities and educational institutions that attract students from around the world.

Non- direct or other routes of immigration to the country



In addition to the commonly known routes of immigration to Morocco, such as obtaining visas or residence permits, there are some other indirect or alternative routes through which people may establish themselves in the country which could be-

- **Marriage to a Moroccan citizen**

Individuals who marry a Moroccan citizen may be eligible for family reunification and obtain a residence permit based on their marital relationship. This route allows them to reside in Morocco as the spouse of a Moroccan citizen.

- **Student exchange programs**

Some individuals may participate in student exchange programs between their home country and Moroccan educational institutions. These programs facilitate temporary stays in Morocco for the purpose of studying or conducting research.

Non- direct or other routes of immigration to the country



- **Diplomatic or international organization assignments**

Diplomats, embassy personnel, and employees of international organizations may be assigned to work in Morocco. These assignments are governed by bilateral agreements or arrangements between the sending country or organization and the Moroccan government.

- **Investor and entrepreneurship programs**

Morocco offers investment and entrepreneurship programs that provide opportunities for foreign individuals to establish businesses or invest in the country. These programs often have specific criteria, such as minimum investment thresholds or job creation requirements, that need to be met to qualify for residency or other benefits.

Types of visas



The visa is an entry and residence permit for a limited period of time in Moroccan territory issued by the competent Moroccan authority. The visa indicates a period of validity, from one day to three months, or exceptionally for a year and, depending on the case, with one, two or multiple entries. However, being in possession of a visa does not confer an irrevocable right of entry.

It is the responsibility of the issuing competent authority to determine the length of stay and duration of the visa according to the profile of the applicant, the type and category of visa applied for and the number of entries

The competent authorities issue five types of entry visas to Morocco:

- **Short validity visa**

The short-term visa allows a foreigner to enter the territory of the Kingdom of Morocco for reasons other than immigration, for a short stay uninterrupted or several short stays in the case of multiple entries. The duration of each stay is from one to ninety days.

Types of visas



- **Long validity visa**

The visa of long validity, over three months, is a visa of multiple entries issued by the Moroccan diplomatic or consular services, after consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation. The period of validity of this visa cannot exceed one year and the duration of each stay is from one to ninety days. A foreigner, holder of a long-term visa and wishes to stay in Morocco for more than three months, should request a registration card from the competent services of the General Directorate of National Security.

- **Transit visa**

The transit visa authorizes a foreigner, travelling to a third State, to cross the territory of Morocco. This visa may be issued for one or two transits with duration of stay of each transit not exceeding 72 hours.

- **Visa issued at the border**

In some exceptional cases, the Security Services may issue short-stay and transit visas at the Border Posts. For countries where Morocco is not represented, requests must be made to the diplomatic mission accredited in that country or to the Honorary Consuls. In the absence of these representations, requests will be addressed directly to the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Directorate of Consular and Social Affairs for a visa to be issued at the airport.

Types of visas

- Official visa

·*Accreditation Visa*

It is exclusive decision of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, Protocol Directorate. The accreditation visa shall be issued to diplomatic and consular agents, members of the administrative and technical staff assigned by their Government to perform their duties in Morocco, as well as to those belonging to international and regional organizations, whose nationality and nationality category of passport are subject to visa formalities.

The visa of accreditation is valid for 90 days, during which the diplomatic or consular agent has to request his/her diplomatic identity card as well as those of members of his/her family to the protocol Department.

·*Diplomatic Visa*

It is issued by the diplomatic missions or consular offices of the Kingdom, free of charge, to the holders of the diplomatic passport. The duration of the diplomatic visa may vary, depending on the reason for the trip, from 03 to 90 days, with 01, 02 or multiple entries.

After consultation with the Protocol Directorate, a long-term visa (valid for a stay of more than 90 days and less than one year) with multiple entries may be issued to persons who, by the nature of their duties, travel very often to Morocco. However, the maximum length of stay at each entry cannot exceed 90 uninterrupted days.

Holders of diplomatic passports, wishing to travel to Morocco for a working or tourist stay, when they are subject to the visa requirement of entry and stay in the territory of Morocco, must submit their application to the Moroccan diplomatic or consular missions.

·*Service Visa*

It is issued by the Kingdom's diplomatic or consular missions, free of charge, to the holders of the service passport or equivalent. The duration of the service or mission visa may vary depending on the reason for the trip, from 03 to 90 days, with 01, 02 or multiple entries.

Licenses and Documentation



Document requirements of a work visa in Morocco

- Morocco visa application form
- Passport and photocopies of passport
- Recent photos
- Employment contract certified by the Ministry of Education
- Flight tickets
- Proof of accommodation in the country
- Bank statements as proof of sufficient funds to support stay in the country
- Travel insurance
- Morocco visa fee payment receipt
- Company invitation letter or recommendation letter from appropriate industry (for a business visit)
- Medical certificate confirming good physical health
- Employees are also required to show a certificate from the police in their country of residence confirming no criminal record against an individual.

Recent Changes



- Morocco has made adjustments to its visa policy to promote tourism and attract foreign investment. This includes the introduction of visa waiver agreements with several countries, allowing citizens of those countries to enter Morocco without a visa for a specific duration.
- Additionally, e-visa services have been expanded, making it easier to apply for visas online. Moreover, the Moroccan government has taken steps to streamline and simplify the work permit process for foreign workers. This includes implementing online platforms for work permit applications, reducing processing times, and introducing reforms to attract skilled foreign professionals to fill specific roles and contribute to the local economy.
- Morocco has also implemented measures to strengthen its border controls and combat irregular migration. This includes increased surveillance, collaboration with neighboring countries and international partners, and efforts to dismantle migrant smuggling networks.

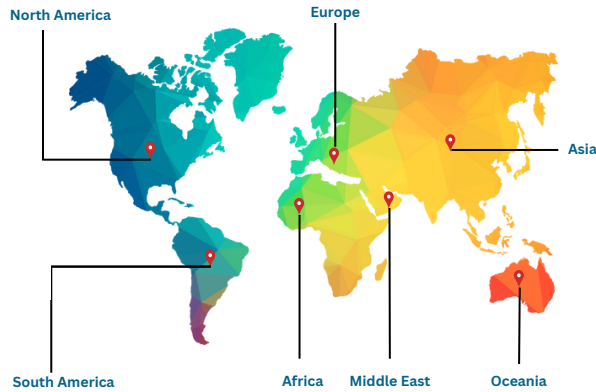
How we can help?



At Chandrawat & Partners, we provide full-service for immigration law including visa applications, sponsorship applications, interview preparation, appeals process, and general counseling. Some of the services provided by our team are as follows:

- **Our Team work to help our clients apply for visas across the spectrum like employment, education, entertainment, business, and tourist visas.**
- **Our Team also work with the internal application processes to ensure full compliance with the law.**
- **Our Team can assist clients with single or multiple-entry business visas, social visas, visa-on-arrival, and visit visa extensions.**
- **Our team can assist clients in immigration audits, deportation cases, detainment cases, and administrative court cases.**

SERVING CLIENTS WORLDWIDE



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